

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP/05551

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-3	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-3	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-3	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations

- ✓ Document 1: JP 11-200261 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Koritsu), 27 July 1999, claims; paragraph [0004]; embodiments
- ✓ Document 2: JP 54-55679 A (Daito Yakuhin Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), 2 May 1979, claims; page 2, upper left column, lines 12 to 17; upper right column, lines 12 and 13

## Claims 1 to 3

Document 1 cited in the international search report indicates that nitric acid is applied to cotton products such as jeans or the indigo-dyed denim thereof, and that when doing so, the temperature of the liquid is set to 70°C and 100°C.

Document 2 cited in the international search report indicates that copper or nickel nitrate salts are applied to jean products dyed with indigo dye, after which the jean products are dried, and are subjected to a certain level of heating during the drying process.

Therefore the invention set forth in claims 1 to 3 lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2.